

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4172

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF EAID EAO

SUBJECT: REFUGEE OPERATIONS NOVA LISBON

DEPT FOR DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM NOVA LISBOA.

1.QUOTE: FOLLOWING GENERAL INFORMATION/OBSERVATIONS ON REFUGEE OPERATIONS NOVA LISBOA PROVIDED AS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND AND FOR USE IN ANSWERING POSSIBLE PRESS/PUBLIC OPINION INQUIRIES.

2. REFUGEES BEING MOVED FROM NOVA LISBOA FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES: "DESLOJADOS" OR DISPLACED PERSONS, AND "ADIDOS" OR CIVIL SERVANTS. TWO LOCAL VOLUNTARY COMMITTEES CORRESPONDING TO THE TWO CATEGORIES PERFORM THE REGISTRATION, PROCESSING, AND FLIGHT NUMBER ASSIGNMENT TASKS. THESE TWO COMMITTEES ARE BRIDGED BY A CENTRAL COORDINATING GROUP HEADED BY THE ZONE MILITARY COMMANDER AND COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EVACUATION

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3. FLIGHT LISTS ARE DRAWN UP AND NUMBERS ASSIGNED IN EACH CATEGORY

ON THE BASIS OF DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE AND DATE OF REGISTRATION. AND EFFORT IS MADE TO GIVE PRIORITY IN EACH FLIGHT LIST TO MOST NEEDY CASES. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY VARYING THE PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS BY DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DISTRICT OF MALANGE, WHICH PRODUCED A LARGE NUMBER OF HARDSHIP CASE

REFUGEES IN JULY AND AUGUST, WAS BEING GIVEN 25 PERCENT OF SEATS ON ALL "DESLOJADO" AND "ADDIO" FLIGHTS DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7-13 WHILE THE DISTRICT OF HUAMBO, IN WHICH NOVA LISBOA IS LOCATED, WAS GIVEN 10 PERCENT OF THE SEATSON EVERY 5TH PLANE IN BOTH THE "ADIDO" AND "DESLOJADO" CATEGORY. THIS LARGELY ACCOUNTS FOR THE RAPID DEPOULATION OF THE REFUGEE CENTER DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7-13.

4. WHEN A PROSPECTIVE EVACUEE IS ASSIGNED A FLIGHT NUMBER HE IS INSTRUCTED IN SUCH MATTERS AS WEIGHT ALLOWANCES, ETC, AND RECEIVES THE NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION FOR CONVERSION OF 5000 ANGOLAN ESCUDOS INTO 5000 PORTUGUESE ESCUDOS. HE IS ALSO TOLD TO LISTON TO THE RADIO FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHEN HIS FLIGHT IS TO DEPART. AT THAT POINT HE PRESENTS HIMSELF AT THE AIRPORT, STAGING CENTER WITH BAGGAGE AND ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS. HE WAITS IN THE ANTE ROOM WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHER PASSANGERS UNTIL HIS NAME IS CALLED FOR FLIGHT PROCESSING. FLIGHTS NORMALY ARE ANNOUNCED BETWEEN 12 AND 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF THE AIRCRAFT. THE WHOLE SYSTEM IS SEVERELY STRAITED

BY THE UNANNOUNCED, PREMATURE OR DELAYED ARRIVAL OF AIRCRAFT OR BY THE SIMULTANEOUS OF SEVERAL.

5. THERE IS NO RACIAL TEST TO QUALIFY FOR EVACUATION TO PORTUGAL. WHILE THE LARGE MARJORITY OF EVACUEES ARE WHITE, THERE HAS BEEN A LARGE NUMBER OF MESTIZOS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF BLACKS.

6. THERE IS NO MEANS TEST TO QUALIFY FOR EVACUATION FROM NOVA LISBON TO LISBON. SINCE THE EVACUATION FLIGHTS NOW OFFER THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL FROM NOVA LISBOA, ALL RESIDENTS OF THIS AREA WHO WANT TO RETURN ARE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE FLIGHTS. PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRIORITY DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS DESCRIBED IN PARA 4, THE GREAT BULK OF "DESLOJADOS" MOVED OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS HAVE BEEN "ADIDOS" EVACUATED SO FAR HAVE BEEN POLICEMEN, POSTMEN, AND MINOR FUNCIONARIES, FROM OUTLYING DISTRICTS. AS THE EVACUATION PROCEEDS, WE EXPECT THAT EVACUEES INCREASINGLY WILL REPRESENT SONEWHAT HIGHER ECONOMIC EDUCATIONAL AND SKILL LEVELS. KILDAY. UNQUOTE. KILLORAN

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